

2021 SILGA RESOLUTIONS

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(1) Title: Provincial Changes in Emergency Management

Sponsor: City of Vernon and City of Enderby

Whereas the provincial government is modernizing elements of the emergency program that directly affects local authorities' ability to meet legislated emergency management responsibilities;

And whereas Emergency Management BC's publication of the Financial Assistance for Emergency Response Costs, A Guide for BC First Nations and Local Authorities (2020), demonstrates the need for and lack of meaningful consultation with, and consideration of, local authorities' role in emergency management and of the relationship as defined in the *Community Charter*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM establish a permanent committee for emergency management and request the Province direct all emergency program initiatives affecting local authorities through this committee as part of their final review;

And be it further resolved that the Province postpone implementation of the revised Financial Assistance for Emergency Response Costs Guide, and all other proposed Emergency Program administrative and financing amendments until such times as affected municipalities are meaningfully consulted.

DEFEATED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to establish a permanent committee for emergency management, and to request that the Province, as part of a final review, direct all emergency program initiatives affecting local governments through this committee. Furthermore, the UBCM membership has not previously considered a request that the Province postpone implementation of the revised Financial Assistance for Emergency Response Costs guide, and all other proposed emergency program administrative and financing amendments until such times as affected local governments are meaningfully consulted.

The Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee currently exists as a forum for engagement and discussion between the Province and local governments regarding emergency management issues, including the ongoing *Emergency Program Act* review.

In January 2021, UBCM received a request from several local governments seeking for UBCM to establish a standing committee on emergency management. The UBCM Executive considered this request, responding that UBCM's Community Safety Committee, under its existing mandate, is best suited to address emergency management initiatives affecting local governments. The Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee will continue to address large-scale issues such as the *Emergency Program Act* review.

With respect to the Financial Assistance for Emergency Response Costs guide, UBCM was advised on February 5, 2021 that due to stakeholder feedback the Province decided to extend its deadline for First Nations and local government feedback. Updated guidelines will now be published in April 2021, and take effect later this year in November.

UBCM staff have also been in discussion with EMBC regarding the need for meaningful consultation with local governments, as well as the relevant legislative framework (e.g. *Community Charter*) outlining such consultation.

(2) Title: 5.25 Percent Provincial Collection Fee on Rural Area Property Taxes

Sponsor: Okanagan Similkameen Regional District

Whereas rural area property taxes are collected from the Province's Surveyor of taxes on behalf of Regional Districts;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia charges a 5.25 percent administration fee on the taxes collected which the property owner pays as part of their property taxes, and this increases the tax burden on electoral area residence:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia reduce the provincial collection fee on rural area property taxes, so that the tax burden on the rural property owners may be reduced.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Province to reduce the provincial collection fee on rural area property taxes, so that the tax burden on the rural property owners may be reduced.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2003-B66 that asks the Province to allow regional districts to collect taxation from their taxpayers in order to avoid paying the 5.25 percent provincial collection fee. Based on the 2003 resolution it is worth noting the Province's administrative fee has remained at 5.25 percent.

In 2003, the Resolutions Committee had recommended not endorsing B66 as not only would the regional district be collecting the rural area property taxes, they would also be required to collect the other taxes (school, MFA, BC Transit, etc) that municipalities presently collect, that is presently collected and administered by the Province on behalf of regional districts.

(3) Title: Primary Care Network Funding

Sponsor: Town of Oliver

Whereas many British Columbians in the province do not have appropriate access to primary care services;

And whereas the Province introduced team based primary care clinics to serve and build interdisciplinary primary care teams in each community to ensure patients are at the center of health care delivery:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide additional Primary Care Network Funding to communities with approved primary care network growth plans to facilitate the establishment of team based primary care clinics.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Ministry of Health to provide additional Primary Care Network Funding to communities with approved primary care network growth plans to facilitate the establishment of team based primary care clinics.

(4) Title: Long Term Care Homes – COVID-19

Sponsor: Town of Oliver

Whereas long term care services are for people who can no longer be cared for in their own homes or in an assisted living residence in a protective and supportive environment;

And whereas the significant coronavirus death rate of long-term care residents is attributed to residing in facilities with shared rooms/spaces, inadequate ventilation systems, limited access to isolation rooms, and limited supports for residents with dementia or complex cognitive and physical needs at the expense of their health safety, privacy and dignity in their end of life care:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Government of BC put a moratorium on the construction of new long term care facilities that do not offer single rooms which will support and care for residents to ensure that the spread of COVID-19, flu like viruses and other diseases are minimized;

And be it further resolved that current long term care facilities be renovated to accommodate patient care in single rooms.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to put a moratorium on the construction of new long-term care facilities that do not offer single rooms, as well as ask that existing long-term care facilities be renovated to accommodate patient care in single rooms.

(5) Title: Funding Maintenance of Community Halls and Recreation Centres

Sponsor: District of Lillooet

Whereas there is insufficient tax base in small, rural communities to fund the adequate maintenance of community halls, recreation centres, and other major, aging municipal infrastructure;

And whereas regional districts may be well positioned to fund the maintenance of municipal infrastructure in small, rural BC communities;

And whereas the availability of municipal infrastructure such as community halls and recreational centres is integral to the health and wellbeing of residents in small, rural communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia fund regional districts to enable them to maintain municipal infrastructure including community halls and recreational centres.

DEFEATED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to fund regional districts to enable them to maintain municipal infrastructure including community halls and recreational centres.

The sponsor has clarified that the intent is to seek additional funding to contribute to the maintenance of municipal assets that also benefit regional district residents; recognizing that regional districts already have a funding model in place to contribute to municipal assets that serve the regional district residents. The sponsor thought that the request to fund regional districts, instead of the municipality, through the already existing funding mechanism to regional districts would be the easiest way for the Province to do this, while the municipality retains these facilities as municipal assets.

The Committee would note that the Province already has a program for this – Small Community Grants/Regional District Basic Grants, but other than the \$425 million Restart program, most programs do not support operations and maintenance.

In the absence of specific UBCM policy, the Committee has offered no recommendation.

(6) Title: COVID-19 Funding Allocation Deadline

Sponsor: Okanagan Similkameen Regional District

Whereas regional districts must fully allocate COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments funds to an appropriate regional and local service before December 31, 2021, but municipalities do not have the same allocation deadline requirement;

And whereas regional districts would like the discretion to hold back some COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments funding for allocation to an appropriate regional or local service in a future year:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province provide regional districts the same COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments allocation and reporting requirements afforded to municipalities.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide regional districts the same COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments allocation and reporting requirements afforded to municipalities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2020-SR7 that asked the Province to work collaboratively with UBCM to identify the health, safety, social and economic challenges facing BC communities and provide corresponding financial support that will aid local governments in the Province's overall COVID-19 recovery effort.

(7) Title: Flood Mitigation Response

Sponsor: Okanagan Similkameen Regional District

Whereas current funding programs for flood mitigation requires 1/3 of project funding from local government as well as requiring that the local government assume ownership of the works for a period of 10 years, in some cases resulting in an unrealistic burden on affected taxpayers;

And whereas the financial inability of residents to meet the requirements of the current funding program often precludes a planned proactive approach to known flood issues to minimize environmental impacts associated with mitigative works and instead results in a reactive approach when an imminent threat occurs, resulting in greater costs and greater environmental damage, in addition to the traumatic and sometimes devastating impacts on affected residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to develop programs that take a proactive approach to flood mitigation rather than continuing to try to download additional responsibilities on local governments that are ill-equipped and lacking in financial capacity to address these situations in a proactive manner that best respects the residents and the environment.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed an identical resolution under a different name: 2011-B11 Flood Mitigation Programs.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B33, 2018-B37, 2018-B94, 2018-B123, 2016-B56, 2015-B6, 2015-B7, 2015-B97, 2014-B75, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2012-B62, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8).

In 2019, Emergency Management BC began work to amend and modernize BC's emergency management legislation. New legislation will incorporate principles from the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, including a greater emphasis on mitigation as a means to managing emergencies. In examining local government responses to provincial proposals, UBCM found that the need for funding and support to address new and ongoing emergency management responsibilities were the most prevalent concerns. As a result, UBCM recommended:

- That EMBC develop an ongoing sustainable funding framework for local governments to address emergency management responsibilities; and,
- That EMBC confirm adequate provincial support services for local governments, to address emergency management capacity issues.

(8) Title: Detox and Treatment Beds, and Sobering Centres

Sponsor: City of Kamloops

Whereas local governments across BC work with business and neighbourhood associations, health authorities, social service providers, and provincial organizations to identify resources or programs that will support a safe and secure community for all;

And whereas many local governments are in need of more detox beds, treatment beds and a sobering centres in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Minister of Health and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions address the need for an increase in detox beds and treatment beds, and sobering centres that include treatment for addictions and mental health issues.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions making similar requests, including those that:

- seek more funding for detox and rehabilitation throughout the Province, particularly in rural and remote communities (2019-B61);
- seek resources to establish sobering and assessment centres (2014-B70);
- seek, in part, more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds, to be made available in every local government in BC (2010-B145);
- seek more funding for detox centres in more areas of the Province (2007-B51); and
- seek more regional detox centres (2006-B8).

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

(9) Title: Outcomes of Supportive Housing

Sponsor: City of Kamloops

Whereas BC Housing develops, manages, and administers a wide range of subsidized housing options across the province. BC Housing works with the ministry responsible for housing to address critical gaps across the housing continuum, which range from emergency shelter to rent assistance in the private market to affordable home ownership;

And whereas a number of non-profit and charitable organizations support communities across BC as housing providers for vulnerable populations;

And whereas many BC communities are working with the Province and BC Housing to determine if sufficient wrap-around services are being implemented to support those in need of housing and the impacts of these housing projects on the community:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Attorney General and Minister for Housing, the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions engage a third-party consultant to review the outcomes of the current supportive housing projects, the impacts of the housing projects on communities, and the outcomes of individuals who have accessed these housing options and associated support programs;

And be it further resolved that the consultant review opportunities for building a stronger partnership between communities and BC Housing for future, long-term housing projects.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution on this issue.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking more funding and improved supportive housing, including:

- requests that the Province invest in a new supportive housing model, along with an integrated approach to housing supports and regional health services (2020-EB80);
- requests for increased funding levels from the Province to BC Housing in order to mandate and assure that community outreach services and the stability of an adequately skilled staff are components of supportive housing developments that are vital in local communities (2020-EB82); and
- ensure all forms of social services (mental health services, addiction services, social assistance services, employment services, etc.) also referred to as “wrap-around services” are available to individuals housed in homeless housing at the housing site or within a short walking distance (2019-B68).

(10) Title: *Residential Tenancy Act – Landlord Protection*

Sponsor: Town of Oliver

Whereas the *Residential Tenancy Act* is intended to establish and protect the rights of landlords and tenants from unwarranted eviction;

And whereas a landlord may seek early termination of a tenancy agreement for cause and the protections contained within the Act enable the occupant to refuse vacating the premises, which have been enhanced due to COVID-19:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to undertake a broad review of landlord protections to increase confidence in entering the rental market to grow the number of rental properties better suited to families.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to undertake a broad review of landlord protections to increase confidence in entering the rental market to grow the number of rental properties better suited to families.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to better protect the rights of renters (2020-EB85, 2020-NR47, 2017-B126, 2016-B121). UBCM's housing policy also includes recommendations towards a balanced approach to rental properties that both reflect the rights of renters and create greater certainty for landlords.

(11) Title: Vacant Land Property Tax

Sponsor: District of Lillooet

Whereas some municipal councils in jurisdictions have the authority to set tax rates on vacant land at a higher rate than non-vacant land (such as the authority provided for in the s. 616 vacancy tax provision of the *Vancouver Charter*);

And whereas some municipal councils with the requisite authority choose to set tax rates on vacant land at a higher rate to encourage owners of vacant property to either develop the property or sell the land which may result in the development of the property under new ownership:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia conduct a review of the *Community Charter* to amend the legislation to grant municipal councils' authority to add a 'vacant land' property tax.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2016-B13 which asked the Province to amend the Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation 438/81 to include prescribed classes for vacant land and vacant contaminated land that allows for a higher tax rate and/or flat taxes.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking legislative amendments to authorize municipalities to set different property tax rates for land and improvements, in order to encourage the development and improved maintenance of derelict buildings and vacant land and improve housing affordability (2020-EB44, 2017-B14, 2011-B24, 2008-B18, 2007-B72).

(12) TITLE: Fire Apparatus Maintenance for Small Geographic Fire Departments

SPONSOR: Village of Chase

Whereas the Fire Underwriters has deemed that all fire apparatus from all municipal and regional district Fire Departments in British Columbia be in service for 20 years, providing annual testing and inspections are performed;

And whereas there are local governments that utilize their fire apparatus much less frequently than those of other local governments, and small geographically sized communities do not put nearly as much distance on their fire apparatus as do larger geographically sized communities, and all fire apparatus are annually tested and maintained to the highest standard of operation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Provincial Government to urge the Fire Underwriters to allow small municipalities with small geographic areas to operate their well maintained and low mileage fire apparatus beyond 20 years as their first response apparatus.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking flexibility from the Fire Underwriters Survey in setting requirements and guidelines to accommodate the particular challenges faced by fire services, including those in small and rural communities (2020-EB11, 2016-B5, 2014-B49, 2011-B2, 2009-B5, 2008-B60).

Following the endorsement of resolution 2016-B5, UBCM delivered correspondence to the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS), requesting a meeting to discuss equipment requirements for local fire departments. FUS did not respond to the letter; and has previously shown reluctance to engage in substantive discussion with UBCM regarding equipment standards.

(13) Title: Provincial Maintenance of Arterial Roads Within Municipalities

Sponsor: City of Merritt

Whereas the Provincial Ministry of Transportation (MOTI) is responsible for the clearing of snow off arterial highways across British Columbia, including within municipal boundaries;

And whereas the Provincial MOTI has signed contracts with external companies to fulfill this responsibility, each of which is to last for ten years from signing;

And whereas residents of municipalities expect their city authorities to promptly and appropriately deal with snow removal:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government work closely with municipalities to identify any flaws or deficiencies in snow-clearing on arterial routes, and to relay an expectation to their contractors that reasonable municipal requests be heeded through the duration of the contract;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government involve municipal authorities in setting standards for snow clearance when the contracts are renewed.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2018-B85 which asked the Province to review snow and ice control in rural areas, as well as minimum equipment standards, and staffing requirements. Members also endorsed resolution 2007-B98, which requested that the Province work with UBCM to ensure that the standards, practices, and funding for winter maintenance of provincial highways within a local jurisdiction are harmonized with the standards and practices used by the local government to clear its roads of snow, ice, and gravel.

(14) Title: Use of All-Terrain Vehicles during Snow Events

Sponsor: City of Merritt

Whereas the provincial *Motor Vehicle Act* prohibits private owners from driving all-terrain vehicles on municipal streets;

And whereas heavy snowfall can render municipal streets and sidewalks impassable by ordinary vehicles and pedestrians for several days;

And whereas residents of municipalities wish to aid their fellow residents by clearing snow expeditiously including with the use of all-terrain vehicles:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government amend the *Motor Vehicle Act* to allow the use of all-terrain vehicles on municipal streets during snow events, solely to aid in clearing snow.

DEFEATED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to consider modifying the *Motor Vehicle Act* to allow the use of all-terrain vehicles on municipal streets during snow events, solely to aid in clearing snow.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2013-B97, which asked the Province to amend legislation to authorize local governments to regulate the operation of ATVs on roads and streets within their boundaries.

The Committee would point out that more recently, members endorsed resolution 2019-B121, which sought to streamline the process for obtaining an ORV operation permit, to support use of trail networks that connect multiple communities. In its response to resolution 2019-B121, the provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) indicated that it was investigating whether it would be possible for ICBC to develop a new Basic Insurance product to support increased access to municipal streets by ORVs. This would require select rural communities to be designated pilot projects, similar to golf carts on roads in Chase.

The response from FLNRORD suggested that local governments should use UBCM's ORV Local Government Working Group to communicate with provincial staff responsible for the ORV framework, as a means of ensuring a common approach when engaging the Province. Separate from the resolutions process, this issue could be brought to the UBCM ORV Local Government Working Group, so that the group can include in its discussions the question of ORV operation on local streets for the purpose of snow clearing.

(15) Title: Extreme Weather Response Shelters

Sponsor: Town of Oliver

Whereas the Province of British Columbia no longer supports extreme weather response shelters that open during the winter when a local community declares an alert under the *Assistance to Shelter Act* - that sleeping outside could threaten health and safety, and during an alert are open every night;

And whereas the Province, through BC Housing, now supports year-round emergency shelters and temporary winter shelters that are generally open November to April that challenges smaller communities with the ability to open these types of emergency shelters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province re-establish extreme weather response shelters funding to enable small communities to open an extreme weather response shelter for the homeless and vulnerable population;

And be it further resolved that extreme weather response shelters be activated when Environment Canada issues an extreme weather alert.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution, 2012-B94 asking the Province to work with local governments and to fund cold weather shelters.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a national housing strategy and complementary provincial housing strategy as part of a comprehensive plan to address homelessness (2017-B52, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109).

(16) Title: Provincial Authorization and Compliance of Landfills in British Columbia

Sponsor: Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Whereas the *Environmental Management Act* authorizes a regional district to manage solid waste in accordance with its Solid Waste Management Plan, which is approved by the Ministry of Environment;

And whereas the Authorizations Division of the Ministry of Environment is responsible to review and receive a landfill facility's design and operation plan and issue the operational certificate required for a local government to operate a landfill facility to receive solid waste;

And whereas the Compliance Division of the Ministry of Environment is responsible to inspect a local government operated landfill facility to ensure it is operating in accordance with its issued operational certificate;

And whereas the Authorizations Division of the Ministry of Environment works through a necessary application to update an existing Operational Certificate, the Compliance Division of the Ministry of Environment holds local government owned landfill facilities out of compliance against the existing Operational Certificates and issues landfill non-compliance letters to local governments containing threats of significant monetary penalties and even imprisonment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to request that the Ministry of Environment Compliance and the Authorizations Divisions act proactively and reasonably with each other and local government landfill owners to ensure landfill compliance with Operational Certificates without threats of imprisonment or substantial monetary fines.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Ministry of Environment Compliance and the Authorizations Divisions act proactively and reasonably with each other and local government landfill owners to ensure landfill compliance with Operational Certificates without threats of imprisonment or substantial monetary fines.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2016-B27 that addresses the Landfill Operational Certificates and their resulting higher standards and increasing costs to local governments to operate landfills.

(17) Title: Abandoned Vehicles on Crown Land

Sponsor: Okanagan Similkameen Regional District

Whereas enforcement of abandoned vehicles on Crown Land, Provincial rights of way and road dedications may involve a number of agencies but little coordinated action;

And whereas members of the public have difficulty knowing who to contact to initiate a complaint of an apparent abandoned vehicle:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to designate one Ministry or coordinating body to be responsible for abandoned vehicle complaints on Crown Land, Provincial rights of way, and road dedications.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to designate one Ministry or coordinating body to be responsible for abandoned vehicle complaints on Crown Land, Provincial rights of way, and road dedications.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2020-EB10, which calling for additional provincial funding to support rural RCMP detachments or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in responding to removal and disposal of abandoned vehicles from rural roads.

The Committee also notes that members endorsed resolution 2019-B57, which requested that the Province review rural parking enforcement regulations, and either grant regional districts the authority to enforce parking regulations or provide additional policing resources to rural RCMP detachments to address illegal parking issues. In response, the Province indicated a willingness to further examine parking and enforcement regulations on provincial roads within regional districts.

(18) Title: 911 Dropped Calls

Sponsor: Okanagan Similkameen Regional District

Whereas statistics indicate an increased number of identified abandoned 911 calls in the South Okanagan;

And whereas the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) do not have access to current personal information to respond effectively to abandoned 911 calls;

And whereas the RCMP response to abandoned 911 calls is labour intensive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Justice work with the Federal Government of Canada to make available current personal information collected by provincial and national telecommunication carriers to police communications centres and 911 public safety answering points within British Columbia to assist with tracking dropped 911 calls.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Justice to work with the Federal Government of Canada to make available current personal information collected by provincial and national telecommunication carriers to police communications centres and 911 public safety answering points within British Columbia to assist with tracking dropped 911 calls.

The Committee would note that this resolution is requesting that personal information be shared with police communication centres and 911 answering points.

(19) Title: Invasive Asian Clams

Sponsor: District of Sicamous

Whereas invasive Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) are known to threaten the natural biodiversity of lakes by competing with native species for sustenance and space, cause biofouling to water treatments systems, alter water chemistry, and potentially reduce the quality of drinking water;

And whereas the spread of Asian clams will have significant environmental, social, and economic consequences for our waterways, wildlife and communities;

And whereas the Controlled Alien Species Regulation exists under the *Wildlife Act* to enforce controls for species that pose a risk to people, property, wildlife, and wildlife habitat:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to designate invasive Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) as a Prohibited Aquatic Invasive Species under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation under the *Wildlife Act*.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to designate invasive Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) as a Prohibited Aquatic Invasive Species under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions addressing invasive species, including:

- Plants (2014-B22, 2013-B66, 2011-B44, 2011-B135, 2010-B29, 2008-B71, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25, 2004-B72, 2003-B81);
- Quagga and zebra mussels (2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2);
- Soils free of invasive pests (2106-B113);
- Ban on sale of invasive species (2017-B28);
- Rat reduction strategy (2017-B108);
- Request for an Invasive Species Act which was endorsed by the UBCM Executive (2020-NR57); and
- Request for more Province to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management (2020-EB49).

(20) Title: Protection of Waterways from Aquatic Invasive Species

Sponsor: District of Sicamous

Whereas Canada is home to 20 percent of the world's fresh water, and the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) poses irreparable environmental, social and economic threats that will cost Canadian taxpayers billions of dollars in lost tourism and economic opportunities, and other unknown costs;

And whereas the spread of AIS is largely connected to human activity, including the unsafe transport of watercraft and floatplanes between bodies of water;

And whereas current government efforts through fines for failing to stop at a BC watercraft inspection station, there is a lack of specific provincial or federal regulation and enforcement that is directed at watercraft owners who fail to prevent the spread of AIS by cleaning, draining, and drying their watercraft before transport:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal governments adopt increased and stricter enforcement measures for watercraft and floatplane owners including the introduction of a significant fine for watercraft and floatplane owners that fail to clean, drain and dry their watercraft or floatplane before transporting it to another body of water and an increase in the fine issued to motorists who fail to stop and a watercraft inspection station.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that asks the provincial and federal governments to adopt increased and stricter enforcement measures for watercraft and floatplane owners including the introduction of a significant fine for watercraft and floatplane owners that fail to clean, drain and dry their watercraft or floatplane before transporting it to another body of water and an increase in the fine issued to motorists who fail to stop and a Watercraft inspection Station.

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- Quagga and zebra mussels (2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2);
- Soils free of invasive pests (2106-B113);
- Ban on sale of invasive species (2017-B28);
- Rat reduction strategy (2017-B108);
- Request for an Invasive Species Act which was endorsed by the UBCM Executive (2020-NR57); and
- Request for more Province to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management (2020-EB49).

~~(21) Title: Recreation Sites and Trails BC Partnership Agreements—(rescinded by Sicamous council)~~

Sponsor: District of Sicamous

Whereas many local governments and communities rely on the snowmobile industry for economic stability and development and, at the same time, those local governments and communities care about maintaining existing Recreation Sites and Trails Management Plans and Partnerships with the Province of BC for respectful stewardship of the lands;

And whereas some communities, user groups, and clubs within the BC Snowmobile Federation (BCSF) find their management plans undermined and disregarded without notice or consideration due to industrial use of these recreation sites and trails during peak operating season:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the provincial government to ensure that the BCSF, its partnering snowmobile clubs and recreational user groups, are awarded sole user status on the aforementioned trails and forest service roads for which corresponding Management Plans are in place, from December 1 through to March 31 of each year.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to ensure that the BC Snowmobile Federation, its partnering snowmobile clubs and recreational user groups, are awarded sole user status on the aforementioned trails and forest service roads for which corresponding Management Plans are in place, from December 1 through to March 31 of each year.

It is not clear if this request for “sole user status” would create conflicts with other backcountry recreational users such as ATV groups. For that reason, UBCM is not able to indicate its support for this resolution as worded and it offering no recommendation.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide appropriate resources (funding, staffing) to support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks, recreational sites and trails and backcountry areas (2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72, 2015-B35, 2011-B49, 2010-B41, 2003-B28, 2003-B94, 2001-B84).

(22) Title: UBCM Resolutions Session

Sponsor: Village of Lumby

Whereas UBCM is the primary way that all local governments in BC interact with the provincial government as a unified group;

And whereas resolutions brought forward from area associations to UBCM have been debated at area association AGMs, as well as reviewed by the UBCM resolutions committee prior to convention:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM convention focus on allowing enough time for all resolution debate and voting as a priority over plenary sessions and presentations so that ALL resolutions can be debated and voted at convention;

And be it further resolved that the UBCM convention schedule resolution debate and voting times to not be concurrent with ministerial meeting schedules so that all delegations bringing resolutions can be present when their resolution reaches the convention floor.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to have its convention focus on allowing enough time for all resolution debate and voting as a priority over plenary sessions and presentations so that all resolutions can be debated and voted at convention. Nor have the membership considered a request that the UBCM convention schedule resolution debate and voting times to not be concurrent with ministerial meeting schedules so that all delegations bringing resolutions can be present when their resolution reaches the convention floor.

The Committee notes that the requests made by this resolution echo what has been expressed in the UBCM Convention Feedback Surveys following the 2019 & 2020 Conventions.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking changes to the procedures and processes by which resolutions are handled and organized, including:

- Wanting fewer resolutions with improved vetting in order to present a compelling case for government to act (UBCM Executive endorsed) (2019-B176); and
- allowing for block voting on some or all of the grouped resolutions and implementing a requirement to call the question on a resolution if there is no delegate wishing to speak in opposition or to propose an amendment (2010-ER1).

However, the Committee advises that the membership has rejected resolutions that asked UBCM and the Area Associations to implement a prioritizing practice into their resolutions processes (2016-B102, 2015-B101).

(23) Title: Off-Site Tasting Rooms

Sponsor: City of Penticton

Whereas BC wineries and liquor manufacturers are not able to sell their products at an owner-operated secondary or offsite location;

And whereas land-based wineries are required to locate their tasting room and retail facility at their manufacturing establishment, which in turn must be located on the agricultural land where their vineyard is located; while commercial wineries may locate their tasting room and retail facility in a town or city only if their manufacturing facility is located on the same property;

And whereas allowing BC wineries and liquor manufacturers to establish off-site tasting room and retail facilities would attract visitors who are increasingly interested in regional, craft and artisanal products to communities around the province, creating significant economic development opportunities for smaller rural communities and limiting pressure on the development of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General revise Division 5 of the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation (dealing with Manufacturer's Licenses) and the Manufacturer License Terms and Conditions such that manufacturers may apply to establish a tasting room and retail facility off-site, either on an individual basis or in concert with one or more other manufacturers; together with associated lounge, patio and picnic-area endorsements.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General revise Division 5 of the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation (dealing with Manufacturer Licenses) and the Manufacturer License Terms and Conditions such that manufacturers may apply to establish a tasting room and retail facility off-site, either on an individual basis or in concert with one or more other manufacturers; together with associated lounge, patio and picnic-area endorsements.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2010-B152, that asked the Province to review the legislation and regulatory structure with respect to alcoholic beverage manufacturing, distribution and sale in British Columbia to ensure fairness and balance among components of the industry - including artisan distillers.

(24) Title: Dilapidated Z240 Mobile Homes Disposal Fee Two-Year Reprieve

Sponsor: District of Lillooet

Whereas there is insufficient attainable housing availability for those who seek to live and work in rural BC Communities;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has acknowledged the lack of attainable housing as a “Housing Crisis”;

And whereas there is an abundance of dilapidated Z240 mobile homes in rural BC Communities that if removed could benefit the property development, economic growth and visual aesthetics of various communities;

And whereas the cost of responsibly disposing of these dilapidated Z240 mobile homes is prohibitive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to grant a two-year reprieve on the cost of disposing dilapidated Z240 mobile homes in landfills to free up developable land for improved and additional housing.

DEFEATED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to grant a two-year reprieve on the cost of disposing dilapidated Z240 mobile homes in landfills to free up developable land for improved and additional housing.

The Committee would also note that this resolution may run counter to the spirit of endorsed resolutions 2006-A2 and 2008-B52 both of which called for relocation and increased compensation for displaced tenants of manufactured home parks.

The Committee would also note that the resolution appears to be asking the Province to put a requirement on local governments, which own landfills, to grant a two-year reprieve from collecting disposal fees for mobile homes.

(25) Title: Public Sector Essential Service Personnel Housing

Sponsor: District of Lillooet

Whereas there is insufficient attainable housing availability for those who seek to live and work in many communities;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has acknowledged the lack of attainable housing as a "Housing Crisis";

And whereas there is both a great need for, and lack of, housing for various personnel such as Royal Canadian Mounted Police and medical staff in communities in BC;

And whereas the cost and availability of housing is prohibitive for needed personnel that would otherwise move for work:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia fund public sector essential service personnel housing.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to fund public sector essential service personnel housing.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128, 2003-B40, 1994-B85).

(26) Title: Criminal Justice Reform for Repeat, Convicted Offenders

Sponsor: District of Lillooet

Whereas the RCMP are overworked and understaffed in the Province of BC;

And whereas many BC residents are frustrated with the low sanction sentences imposed by the Provincial Court criminal justice system;

And whereas criminals may not choose the path to recovery as provided for by various Provincial, Federal, or First Nations government-created mental health programs, Indigenous court systems, reform programs, safe injection sites, methadone, or Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) clinics;

And whereas many thefts and drug-related crimes are perpetrated by criminals who are “well known to police” and have multiple or long criminal records:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC and the BC’s Attorney General immediately begin working with the Government of Canada to address issues with Canada’s and British Columbia’s justice system including the proposed imposition of weightier consequences and greater accountability for repeat offenders, thereby supporting the rights of all Canadians to live in safe communities.

CARRIED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions asking the provincial and/or federal government to:

- ensure prolific offenders are sentenced effectively, and supported by credible programs in communities to address underlying challenges such as substance abuse or mental illness (2015-B54);
- develop a long-term, multi-faceted strategy to help people suffering from concurrent disorders to avoid becoming chronic offenders, including integrated health and psychiatric care, criminal justice reform, and access to affordable housing (2014-B34);
- amend or create laws or policies that will prohibit offenders labeled high risk from residing in the community or the vicinity of the community where they committed their crime(s) following release from prison (2007-A2);
- improve sentencing guidelines, including escalating sentences for chronic offenders, and revise public policy underlying the Criminal Code to re-emphasize the protection of society and the responsibility of individuals for their criminal behaviour (2007-B89); and
- change the law with respect to “repeat offenders,” specifically those with violent and/or sexual tendencies, requiring:
 1. Release of offenders into communities only after full consultation with the local government and the local law enforcement agency;
 2. The provincial government develop treatment programs for offenders incarcerated in provincial correctional facilities; and,
 3. Offenders may not be released until such time as they have consented to treatment and have shown considerable progress to rehabilitation (2006-B137).

(27) Title: Organ Donation – Presumed Consent

Sponsor: Okanagan Similkameen Regional District

Whereas the population of British Columbia is 5.071 million but only 1.555 million British Columbians have registered their organ donor decision;

And whereas one organ donor can save up to 8 lives:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia enact provincial legislation whereby an individual is deemed to consent to the individual's organs and tissues being used for transplantation activities, similar to the *Presumed Consent Organ Transplant Act* passed by the Province of Nova Scotia.

DEFEATED

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to enact legislation whereby an individual is deemed to consent to the individual's organs and tissues being used for transplantation activities, similar to the *Presumed Consent Organ Transplant Act* passed by the Province of Nova Scotia.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2016-B125 which called on local government elected officials to work with the Kidney Foundation to promote registration of organ donors in their communities.